

[0045] Moreover, by folding up the cellular telephone 1 with the display section 11 in a position rotated 180-degree relative to the rotation supporting section 10 on the second rotation shaft 17, a user can view a screen image currently displayed on the display section 11 even when the cellular telephone 1 is in its compact form.

[0046] Furthermore, the cellular telephone 1 is folded up when carried around so that the operation section 6, the display section 11 and the camera section 21 can be protected. Consequently, it is possible to prevent wrong operation of the operation keys and damages to the LCD 23 and the objective lens 22 reliably.

[0047] Incidentally, while the portable communication device of the present invention is used as a cellular telephone in this embodiment, it is obvious that the present invention is applicable to various types of portable electronic apparatuses such as PDA.

[0048] As set forth hereinabove, the portable communication device of the present invention is provided with a cover having a rotation supporting section and a display section. The rotation supporting section is supported for rotational movement relative to the main body on the first axis, and has an objective lens in a position facing the operation section on the main body when the device is folded up. The display section is supported for rotational movement relative to the rotation supporting section on the second axis running at right angles to the first axis. With this construction, it is possible to improve the operability of the portable communication device for taking pictures of a landscape, etc. by the camera, and ensure excellent portability. Moreover, damage to the objective lens is reliably prevented when the portable communication device is folded up to carry around.

[0049] Besides, the portable communication device of the present invention allows a user to view images on camera and take pictures of his/her face as well as a landscape, etc. in good condition by only one camera. Consequently, it is possible to provide a small portable communication device with excellent portability at a low manufacturing cost.

[0050] Furthermore, the portable communication device of the present invention can be folded up with the display section in a position rotated 180-degree relative to the rotation supporting section on the second axis. Accordingly, a user can view the display section even when the portable communication device is folded up in a compact form. Thus, the portable communication device of the present invention ensures excellent portability even when using the display section.

[0051] While the present invention has been described with reference to the particular illustrative embodiment, it is not to be restricted by the embodiment but only by the appended claims. It is to be appreciated that those skilled in the art can change or modify the embodiment without departing from the scope and spirit of the present invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A portable communication device comprising: a main body which has an operation section including operation keys and buttons on its main surface; a cover which has a display section for showing information, and is joined to the main body so as to be foldable; and a camera having an objective lens; wherein:

the cover includes a rotation supporting section which is supported for rotational movement relative to the main body on a first axis, and a display section which is supported for rotational movement relative to the rotation supporting section on a second axis running at right angles to the first axis; and

the rotation supporting section is provided with the objective lens in a position facing the operation section on the main body when the portable communication device is folded.

2. A portable communication device comprising: a main body which has an operation section including operation keys and buttons on its main surface; a cover which has a display section for showing information, and is joined to the main body so as to be foldable; a camera having an objective lens; a microphone and an earpiece for transmitting/receiving a voice; wherein:

the cover includes a rotation supporting section which is supported for rotational movement relative to the main body on a first axis, and a display section which is supported for rotational movement relative to the rotation supporting section on a second axis running at right angles to the first axis; and

the rotation supporting section is provided with the objective lens in a position facing the operation section on the main body when the portable communication device is folded.

3. A portable communication device comprising: a main body which has an operation section including operation keys and buttons on its main surface; a cover which has a display section for showing information, and is joined to the main body so as to be foldable; and a camera having an objective lens; wherein:

the cover includes a rotation supporting section which is supported for rotational movement relative to the main body on a first axis, and a display section which is supported for rotational movement relative to the rotation supporting section on a second axis running at right angles to the first axis;

the rotation supporting section is provided with the objective lens in a position facing the operation section on the main body when the portable communication device is folded; and

the display section is supported so as to be rotatable 360-degree relative to the rotation supporting section on the second axis.

4. A portable communication device comprising: a main body which has an operation section including operation keys and buttons on its main surface; a cover which has a display section for showing information, and is joined to the main body so as to be foldable; a camera having an objective lens; a microphone and an earpiece for transmitting/receiving a voice; wherein:

the cover includes a rotation supporting section which is supported for rotational movement relative to the main body on a first axis, and a display section which is supported for rotational movement relative to the rotation supporting section on a second axis running at right angles to the first axis;